have continued to express strong opposition to any supply of military equipment to Pakistan including supply of nuclear weapons delivery capability.

**Agreement signed between India and South Africa**

1118. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and South Africa have signed an agreemen envisaging cooperation in political trade, economic and cultural fields a well as in science and technology; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) An agreement to set up a Ministerial level Inter-Governmental Joint Commission between India and South Africa was initiated during the visit of H.E. Mr. Aziz Pahad, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of South Africa to India from November 24 to 28, 1994. Under the agreement, which will be formally signed during the forthcoming visit to India of the President of South Africa which is expected to be in January 1995, cooperation between the two countries is envisaged in political, trade, economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation fields.

**Meeting of the American Federation of Indian Muslims**

1119. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'India West' of October 28, 1994 about the meeting of the American Federation of Muslims from India held in Los Angeles on October 21, 1994

(b) whether it is a fact that false and defamatory speeches were made there against the people and Government of India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Charged' Affaires of the Indian Embassy in Washington, attended and addressed this conference; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to Government's information, though there was some criticism of the treatment of minority communities in some of the speeches at the inaugural session of the convention, appreciation was also expressed of certain measures adopted to address their concerns.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Charged' Affairs was invited by the organisers to attend the inaugural session of the conference as a Special Guest. He spoke briefly on the occasion, referring to India's religious, linguistic and cultural diversity and emphasising the crucial importance of pluralism and secularism in India

**India's claim for membership in the UN security council**

1120. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India asked for inclusion of India in Security Council of UNO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some other countries also claimed for the membership of the UNO Security Council;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) in this situation what action Government of India propose to take so that India will be included as a permanent member of UNO Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (e) The leader of the Indian delegation to the 49th Session of the UN General Assembly stated in the general debate that, given any criteria—population, size of economy or future potential, contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security and to peace-keeping-India deserve to be a permanent member of the Security Council. Other countries with also announced a claim to permanent membership during the general debate were Germany, Japan, Brazil and Nigeria.

The General Assembly's Working Group on the "Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Permanent Membership of the Security Council' is not discussing individual candidatures, but the principles and the criteria that should govern an expansion. Member-States have not, therefore, being required to take a stand on the candidature of any country.

**भारत का भौगोलिक क्षेत्रफल**

1121. **श्री नरेश यादव** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ ने सभी देशों का क्षेत्रफल प्रकाशित किया है ; यदि हां, तो संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ के 1952 और 1953 के के वार्षिक प्रकाशन में भारत का क्रमश: कितना क्षेत्रफल दर्शाया गया था :

(ख) उन दोनों प्रकाशनों में दर्शाए गए क्षेत्रफल में अंतर होने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या भारत सरकार ने उस पर अपनी आपत्ति प्रकट की है और यदि हां, तो कब और यह आपत्ति किस स्तर पर प्रकट की गई ?

**विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर०एल० भाटिया)** :(क) वर्ष 1966 से संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने अपने वार्षिक प्रकाशनों में सदस्य देशों के क्षेत्रों का उल्लेख करना बंद कर दिया है। वर्ष 1952 के वार्षिक प्रकाशन में भारत का भू-क्षेत्रफल 3,383,845 वर्ग कि०मी० बताया गया है ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

**Visit of the President of Iran to India**

1122. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether President of Iran Mr. Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who was to visit India on October 20, 1994, cancelled his visit; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) when he is likely to visit India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Dates were under consideration for the State visit by the President of Iran to India during Ocober, 1994. Meanwhile, Iranians suggested that the visit could take place next year.

(b) Government will look at dates at an appropriate time next

**Countering the adverse publicity in foreign countries due plague**

1123. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any measures were taken by Government to counter adverse publicity the country has got in foreign countries due to outbreak of Plague in the months of September/October, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) (a) Yes, Sir.